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James Gordon Bennett, Jr. died in 1919. It remained the sole property of its founder until his death, in 1917, when his son, James Gordon Bennett, Jr., succeeded to the ownership of the paper, which remained in his hands until his death, in 1918. The Herald became the property of Frank A. Munsey, its present owner, in 1920.

SUNDAY, MAY 22, 1921.

No Tax on Original Art.

It seems that the fight for free art is on yet. The Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives is considering the reimposition of the tax which was removed in 1913 from all original art, old as well as modern.

It would be regrettable if such a step backward should be taken. Art is no more a luxury to be taxed than is education or religion or science. It is a necessity, having practical value. A duty on art would tend to drive American art students abroad and would deprive other citizens of the opportunity of keeping in touch with the living artistic thought of today. Art does not mean merely paintings and sculptures and such things. It enters into every industry in whose production form, design and color play an important part. It educates artisans whose skill and taste give greatly increased value to the product of their labor.

But it is unnecessary to recount all the reasons why original art should be free. Anybody who feels a doubt on the subject should read the memorandum filed with the Ways and Means Committee on behalf of many art associations by JOHN QUINN of this city, whose services to art in general and American art in particular entitle him to be spokesman. Two sentences in this brief sum up the case for free original art:

"A tax on art would be a tax on culture and on civilization."

"The act of 1913 (removing the duty on original art) did more to foster and encourage American art and by its use for the first time of the originality test has done more to keep out fakes and imitations and to keep this country from being a dumping ground for artistic frauds than all the other laws affecting art in this country put together."

The gain from a duty on art would be small indeed compared with the benefits conferred by tax free art.

Job for Friends of Ex-Soldiers.

A man of 23 who had been convicted of highway robbery in the Circuit Court at St. Louis, Missouri, asked Judge HALL for a private interview after sentence of fifteen years imprisonment had been pronounced on him.

Judge HALL saw the prisoner, who asked one favor. He wanted the Judge to see to it that in prison he should be assigned to work on the rock pile, "because he could not breathe inside."

When Judge HALL asked for an explanation of the man's inability to breathe inside he found that his supplicant had spent seventeen months in the army overseas and had been severely gassed. He was six months in a New York hospital. Then he returned to his home in St. Louis and was married, but he was unable to get work, so his wife and baby had to go back home to her family, and they are at present in a small Illinois town.

On his trial he deliberately concealed his military record, because, he declared, he feared it would prejudice the Judge and jury against him if he were known as an ex-soldier of the A. E. F. This astonishing fear he explained to Judge HALL thus:

"I did not want the jury to know I had been an overseas soldier for fear they would hold it against me, as did everybody I tried to get work from."

Judge HALL says of him:

"He drove a truck in France, but seven St. Louis employers, including one he had worked for before going to war, refused to give him a job, as 'they were not hiring ex-soldiers.'"

"The Government paid him a small allowance as a disabled veteran, but he was kept from getting it without a long delay, and it was stopped when he was arrested in November and sent to the city jail."

The robbery for which this man is to be punished was a holdup he committed with the help of two companions, in which the victim was intimidated by the display of a toy

pistol. His watch and chain were taken from him, but the highwaymen gave back to him his carfare and his latchkey.

Judge HALL has reduced the sentence passed on this man to five years in a reformatory, but this should not end the matter. If there is in this country an organization for the relief of soldiers and their dependents which is worth its salt the case of this unfortunate ex-soldier will have immediate attention; his family will be cared for; the employers who do not hire ex-soldiers will be attended to; and a man who has been most unjustly will get a chance to live for the country he offered to die for.

The Chief Justice's Title.

A reader of THE NEW YORK HERALD writes to say that he was puzzled by the use, in various newspapers, of two different titles for the late EDWARD DOUGLASS WHITE. Some newspapers spoke of him as "Chief Justice of the United States," others as "Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States."

The Constitution provided in a general way for a Supreme Court, but it was not specific as to the Chief Justiceship except to declare (Article I, Section 3) that when the President is brought to trial on impeachment "the Chief Justice shall preside." A statute of 1789 referred to the presiding officer of the court merely as "the Chief Justice." The *Federalist*, regarded in the nation's early life as the greatest authority on the construction of the Constitution, spoke of JOHN JAY as "Chief Justice of the Supreme Court."

Let us seek further light in the United States Statutes. Section 673, enacted April 10, 1869, says that "the Supreme Court of the United States shall consist of a Chief Justice of the United States," etc. This would seem to be conclusive, but on the same page, in Section 676, enacted March 3, 1873, and bearing on the salaries of the Supreme Court Judges, we find the longer title used: "The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States."

In a communication to the Senate during the Johnson impeachment proceedings SALMON P. CHASE signed himself "Chief Justice of the United States." Several resolutions offered about that time in the Senate used also the shorter title; yet in that same period the presiding officer in impeachment trials was referred to in the Senate rules of procedure and practice as "the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States."

In his recently completed *Life of MARSHALL M. BEVERIDGE* refers to his subject as "Chief Justice of the United States." JOHN JAY, writing of his grandfather, the first Chief Justice, refers to him as "Chief Justice of the Supreme Court."

In sketches of the late Justice WHITE printed in the Congressional Directory and "Who's Who"—and such sketches are always referred to the subject for his examination—he is entitled "Chief Justice of the United States." Turning to the *Congressional Record* of December 12, 1910, when President TAFT's nomination of Mr. WHITE was confirmed by the Senate, we find that the title used is "Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States."

Very likely the wording of Section 673 of the Federal Statutes may be accepted as final. It seems to define the title beyond doubt: "Chief Justice of the United States." But if it does then that title has not been carefully followed by the legislative body which created it.

Between the two titles, either of which is splendid enough, there is no confusion of identity; but there is a difference in scope. "Chief Justice of the United States" carries with it a sense of breadth, of all embracing power, such as is not exactly encompassed by "Chief Justice of the Supreme Court." Whatever the title is—and the Constitution left the door open for both—it should be firmly established and its use adhered to in executive and legislative documents. Doubtless the judiciary branch of the Government makes no mistakes in delicate matters like this.

Stupendous Timber Loss.

By utilizing airplanes in its survey of the devastated areas the national Forest Service has been able to make a comprehensive report on the damage caused to timber in the Olympic peninsula, Washington State, by the severe wind storm of January 29. The tornado swept a district ninety miles long and from twenty to thirty miles wide. The damage was pronounced the heaviest in the history of the country, estimates of the loss running as high as 8,000,000,000 feet. The only way a survey of the region could be made by experts was by airplane. The flights were undertaken recently, army officers serving as pilots. The estimate of the foresters based on observations from the air is that 6,750,000,000 board feet of lumber were destroyed. The storm jumped in characteristic fashion and left many spots unaffected.

District Forester GEORGE H. CROFT, of Portland, Oregon, was one of the official inspectors, and it is his opinion that only 750,000,000 board feet were lost on national forest lands, while the losses on State and Indian reservations and private holdings will reach 6,000,000,000 feet.

It was at first hoped that some of this timber could be salvaged, but the prospect for this is not good because of lack of transportation facilities. Only those who have seen wind thrown timber of immense size can

appreciate the wellnigh impenetrable barrier it constitutes. The greatest menace present in the devastated area of forest, the area which runs from Chatham Bay on the north to Gray Harbor on the south, is as a fire-trap, and every precaution is being taken to prevent the start of a fire which would inevitably spread to adjoining territory on which billions of feet of the finest Douglas fir and other valuable timber are growing. Special appropriations have been voted by the United States and State governments to meet this emergency.

As lightning is credited with kindling at least one-half of our forest fires the chance of avoiding a conflagration which would be without parallel in the history of the country is none too good and the matter is of the gravest concern to those with property in the threatened territory.

Words That White Fought.

It is a century ago to-day that RICHARD GRANT WHITE was born. It was fifty years ago that his "Words and Their Uses" was published. Of all his works this collection of WHITE's contributions to the *Galaxy* on the subject of correct English may live longest. He struck a hard blow against the evils that were creeping, in his day, into the language. No single writer since has hit harder.

WHITE knew, and said, that English was being corrupted not by the ignorant but by the half educated. The man who said "caption" when he meant "heading"; "balance" when he meant "rest" or "remainder"; "apt" or "calculated" when he meant "likely"; "citizen" when he meant any man, possibly an alien; "default" when he meant "default"; "patron" when he meant "customer"—there was the guilty fellow.

Thanks to WHITE and his sympathizers, "caption" in the false sense is now almost the exclusive property of the motion picture business. Citizens are called by that name only when their political rights are referred to. Fewer merchants speak of their customers as "patrons." "Depot" in the sense of "station" has been pulled down. Persons send money instead of "remitting" it. Thanks to WHITE, the "sample room" vanished even before the arrival of the Eighteenth Amendment. "Transpire," which was WHITE's most abhorred word when it was misused in the sense of "happen," is now used correctly when it is heard at all.

There are words, however, which persist in spite of WHITE's lashing. The outrageous "decimation" in the sense of great slaughter, popped up frequently in the war, and now the Standard Dictionary accepts this definition as one "in popular use." "Section" has defied the onslaught of the purists. WHITE referred to it as "an unpleasant Americanism for neighborhood, vicinity, quarter or region," but it has no such basic faults as "decimate." "Sectionalism" is a word which has no familiar synonym.

WHITE had a healthy dislike of squeamish cant. He regretted that the honest word "smock" had been succeeded in turn by "shift" and "chemise" and that the last named was pronounced "shimmy." He wondered whether the granddaughters of the shrinking ladies of his day would persist in attempting further to disguise the name of a shirt. "Shimmy" is still with us, but as the name of a peculiar dance. As for WHITE's fears about this generation's squeamishness, it is unnecessary to dwell on the self-evident. "Limbo," the use of which to write a spirited page, is now applied only to trees.

Mennonites Will Try Mexico.

The Mennonites of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, western Canada, 15,000 to 20,000 in number, will soon begin an exodus to Mexico. They have had the removal from Canada under consideration for more than a year, but they have experienced difficulty in finding an acceptable site on which to re-establish their colonies. The Mennonites are the largest international body opposed to war from religious convictions and ever since the world war they have been engaged in controversies with Canadian authorities the effect of which, they fear, will be to force them to forego the privileges which they have enjoyed in the matter of the education of their children and exemption from military service.

This exodus is one of the largest mass movements formed and impelled through religious motives or beliefs to take place on this continent. The only one which may be considered as equaling it in the number concerned is the flight of the Mormons from Nauvoo, Illinois, to the shore of Great Salt Lake seventy-five years ago. Previous mass movements of religious colonists were those of Quakers of Pennsylvania and of Shaker communities of this State to Ohio and the formation of settlements in the Miami valley. Another exodus in the seventeenth century was that of Puritans of Connecticut towns to New Jersey. There were two of these early parties, each numbering thirty persons, but they were directed by ROBERT TRENT and they founded the prosperous settlement which afterward became Newark.

An interesting feature of the present exodus of the Mennonites is the contrast which it presents to the journey of the Mormons from Illinois to Utah. The Mormons left Nauvoo to escape the violent antagonism of their neighbors in the Mississippi valley early in 1846. Winter found them spread out in small companies across Iowa. They had made little progress and they had suffered from hunger and hardship. They had able leaders who kept up the emigrants' spirits by

the hope of finding a happy end to their journey. Some of the men worked for Iowa farmers. More than 500 of them volunteered for service in the United States army in the Mexican war and turned over to their coreligionists the full amount of the bounty which they received.

The pioneer band which was sent on ahead caught sight of Great Salt Lake in July, 1847, but it was not until 1848 that the parties which had been left behind finally reached the promised land. Hundreds made the long journey pulling handcarts containing their possessions and young children; and many who started did not survive the journey.

The Mennonites will have no such trials and hardships. It is reported that they will spend more than \$1,000,000 in railroad fares; they will carry with them their live stock, farm equipment and household goods, and they will travel in their long north to south journey by special trains. Not only will they have comfort and ease from Canada to Mexico, but they will have at hand those things most necessary to meet the demands of their newly established colonies and to rob pioneering of its hardships.

The rushes to the California gold fields in '49 and to the Klondike half a century later were the expression of individual enterprise, as have been the historic migrations to settle on new lands opened for private ownership by the Government. None of the transfers of Indian tribes, of which a great number have been made by the United States, is in the same class with this Mennonite movement.

Modern transportation has made such an accomplishment possible. It can add an exodus of religionists to its triumphs in increasing the world's pleasure, business and commerce.

"Deburau" Stays at Home.

MR. BELASCO has been compelled, much against his desire, to abandon his plans to take his interesting and successful production "Deburau" on tour next fall. He has counted the cost of high railroad transportation charges, high baggage transfer charges, high wages for stage mechanics, high salaries for musicians and actors, and he has calculated the possible receipts, counting every house in which the play could be presented as sold to capacity.

The maximum box office takings under such improbably prosperous conditions would not pay the cost of the proposed tour. Mr. BELASCO was glad to put the play on the road if he had a chance to break even on the venture, but even the most altruistic artist cannot be expected deliberately to seek a deficiency.

The abandonment of the tour is an intellectual and social misfortune to thousands of Americans who, because of it, will be deprived of the opportunity to see "Deburau." It is a money misfortune for the railroads, for the baggage transfer companies, for the workers in theatres, who will not be paid the money they hoped to get out of Mr. BELASCO's enterprise. It will be a money misfortune for scores and hundreds of persons who never heard of the play, for money which Mr. BELASCO would have put in circulation and which would have come to them in stimulated business had the charges been right will be withheld from circulation because the charges are wrong.

There has never been a case more illuminative of the paralyzing effect of inordinate charges than this case of Mr. BELASCO's "Deburau."

Some members of Congress threaten to strike out of the District appropriation bill the item setting aside money for Washington's community centers if modern dancing is not stopped there. This is probably a case of sour grapes. The young people who patronize the community clubhouses can dance; the threatening members are undoubtedly those who have taken lessons in modern dancing, worn out their pumps and instructors' nerves, but can't dance.

LANE and TROTTER are now reported to be quarrelling. Having made Russia quarrel with all the rest of the world they are trying it themselves.

Said Professor CORBETT to M. CARPENTIER in assuring the French boxer that weight does not count much in a ring contest. "It is skill and speed combined with hitting that count." Why, then, success in prizefighting is as simple a matter as success in play writing, which, as everybody knows, demands only a strong plot, skilful development and an effective, fascinating dénouement.

The Treasury Department attributes to laziness the failure of clerks to affix revenue stamps to articles the law says must bear such stamps when sold. As this failure is computed by Treasury authorities to cost the Government \$2,000,000 a year in uncollected taxes it will be observed that the case proves that there are circumstances which make laziness highly profitable.

Portrait of an Unknown.

She has the delicate, abstracted air of one, through dwelling on fair fancies, grown.
To hide within a dream world of her own.
And yet she seems not wholly unaware that beauty lingers in her dusky hair,
And in her dark-lashed, faintly mocking eyes,
Or that with haunting graces, woman-wise,
She keeps the charm that unvoiced secrets wear.

There is no clue to what great state she bore,
But she was surely some one known to fame
Who circumstance and homage lightly wore,
Her blithe days sheltered by a precious frame,
Even as now, beyond all sordid chance,
Time frames her in the glamour of romance.

CHARLOTTE BECKER.

"High Hearts."

High hearts . . . I fell to musing on the phrase—
Of those that I had known and of their ways.
Oh, not so few they seemed had earned this name!
Yet none that I knew best knew ever
Was this their virtue or their fault?—
I found—
The thought of them could make my own heart bound;
And well I guessed, because of what they were,
A radiant throb from them may strike afar—
And quickening trouble prove to souls inert
Till these their right to plenary life assert.

They bear themselves not always loftily—
High hearts so careless of insignia be!
But when a running fire from heaven sent
Rattles and fuses a flame within them pent,
Then do they lay about them, to consume
We who, and in their half spent day—
Some wrong which in God's world must have no room;
This being done, they, gently, will retire
Like a sheath'd sword their anger's useful fire.

Of those I well have known—high hearts and best!
Some have been young and richly were possessed
Of joy in battle—drunken to the fray!
Their meed was swift. But all as staunch
We who, and in their half spent day—
Who, solemnly, and in their half spent day—
No challenge flinging—stood but to defend
Where they had pledged their vows, to the world's end!

But highest of high hearts that I have known
Were olden hearts in breach of battle thrown
(Heaven being near them they stood not alone);
These, having saved the day for loved ones,
Injure no one, and from their hates would save—
Then, quite forgot, where others but fore-gave!

High hearts—from out their own exhaustless store
Have lent to me a heart, unknown before,
Greatly to struggle, but to keep no score . . .
Of those that most stirred mine, most I love,
Yet, those in miracle: the mistletoe—
Caught up their last throbbing—forth to bear

For me a live vibration everywhere;
Even as light is, unabated, lent
From orb'd fires long since in heaven spent!

EDITH M. THOMAS.

Freedom and Straw Hats.

AN AMERICAN PROTESTS AGAINST REGULATION OF HEADWEAR.
TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: Why does a great daily newspaper like yours, NEW YORK HERALD, give almost half a column to the matter of "Straw Hat Day"? Why is it that one article of men's wearing apparel should be singled out to receive limitation as to the time of its use?

Who is it that has placed a ban on the wearing of a straw lid by man only at a certain time of the year? Why should the public press or the straw lid man dictate any limitation as to when and what time a straw lid shall be worn or smothered? Why should a straw hat not be worn according to weather conditions or with the freedom that all other articles of wearing apparel enjoy?

Do newspapers call attention to the vestment man or the man wearing low shoes? If not, why not? Surely there is just as much common sense in having an edict against the man without a vest who flaunts an untidy shirt and also the man with low shoes displaying untidy white socks as in the calling in of soldiers to wear hats.

How is it that newspapers in the greatest business center of the world can find time and give valuable space to annotate on such insignificant articles as straw hats?

We who contribute to the support of this business center frequently see straw hats on our streets, worn with satisfaction and safety, when January snows are falling and fur coats are necessary to protect humanity from the winter blizzards.

Who is to dictate that the American citizen must appear in his summer head piece on May 15?

Why should the native citizen give up the comfort of a cool head covering when we are enjoying the delight of warm fall days and the forerunner of an Indian summer?

I hope the American man public will continue to be the most independent thing on earth.

NEW YORK, MAY 21.

Reclining Chairs Wanted.

They Are Needed by Service Men Who Are Poison Gas Victims.

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: There are at present more than seventy former service men who are patients at Seton Hospital, Riverside Avenue, The Bronx. They are boys who are poison gas victims of the Argonne, Solomons and the Hindenburg line, and they are in various stages of tuberculosis.

They are as courageous in fighting tuberculosis as they were in fighting for liberty and humanity. They need entertainment and automobile rides, which the hospital cannot provide. And they would welcome and appreciate any reclining canvas chairs with footrests which they could use on the veranda or lawn. A few have such chairs, but all should have them.

The members of the Patriotic Service Society, of which C. S. Wood of 623 West 121st street is president, has secured two dozen of these special chairs at a cost of \$5 each, including transportation, which will be given to the boys. Will other organizations or individuals help in this worthy cause?

MARJORIE MARSHALL.
NEW YORK, MAY 21.

Passports Not Required.

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: Is it necessary to have a passport to go to Havana, Cuba? J. M. JOSEPH MUMF, NEW YORK, MAY 21.

A Conscientious Kansas.

A Link With the Early New York Stage

Romance and Tragedy Associated With Old St. John's Burying Ground, Now Hudson Park.

In a walk through Greenwich Village along Hudson street one passes a plot of ground now named Hudson Park which in the days when New York was young was known as St. John's Burying Ground. Within its confines rested the remains of many who in their lifetime were numbered among the favorites of fortune. The little God's acre was originally the centre of quiet and peaceful surroundings, and though in the latter years of its existence it was practically uncare for, yet fine old shade trees used to cast their shadow over the crumbling stones, whose inscriptions told of the virtues of the departed. Rambling vines half hid a tottering shrine, while straggling rose bushes grown wild flowered among the neglected graves. In the spring it was an attractive spot and a walk through its weed grown grounds would have disclosed to the visitor many a name which had been famous in the world of the theatre.

In the company which appeared at the John Street Theatre on the evening of February 26, 1796, was Mrs. Elisabeth Johnson, whose reputation was as great in Great Britain as in America. Critics praised her dignity of carriage, her exquisite taste in dressing, and her acting was of such a tragic nature as to cause her to be referred to as the Siddons of America. Mrs. Johnson died in 1830 and was buried in St. John's, where a simple stone covering her remains was inscribed: "Sacred to the memory of Mrs. Elisabeth Johnson. Also two infant children of Thomas and Eleanor Hilson. Also Mrs. Eleanor A. Hilson, born November 12, 1800, died April 2, 1837."

Mrs. Hilson was the daughter of Mrs. Johnson and the wife of one of the great comedians of the day. She was said to have possessed great beauty and merit as an actress, and to have been gifted with a voice of surpassing excellence, "so light, merry and joyous, so sympathetic in its tone and quality, that it affected every hearer and compelled the audience to join in unison with her." She had no other than a preservative features, with rich Auburn hair.

She made her debut at the old Park Theatre when 16 years of age and remained at that house for some fourteen years, becoming the idol of the town. The death of her mother affected her to such a degree that she retired from the stage, returning a few years later to the scenes of her former triumphs only to find that the passing of her youth she was no longer a popular favorite. In 1837 she passed away and was laid beside her mother. A writer of the day in speaking of her death said: "As a woman she was pure, gentle and amiable; and she had the rare fortune of passing without the slightest stain or reproach through a walk of life peculiarly infested by the slanders of female reputation."

In a far corner of the little burying ground was a large slab covering the grave of one of the earliest actresses of the American stage. In letters almost obliterated by time was engraved: "Sacred to the memory of Mrs. Frances Hodgkinson, who died September 27, 1803, aged 32 years." Then followed one of the few poetic epitaphs to be found in the yard.

More worth and virtue never adorned a breast
Than dwelt in hers, who now lies here at rest:
A tender mother and a faithful wife,
She passed abroad through every path of life:
Her infant children feel the chastening rod.
Her husband yields an angel to his God.

Mrs. Hodgkinson was a member of the John Street Theatre, and her husband was manager. In 1793, making her first appearance in this country in January of that year. Before her marriage she was well known on the English stage as Miss Brett. She was considered a capable and versatile actress, and writers of the day described her as being "very fair, light hearted, blue eyed woman, surpassing her contemporaries in rustic comedy and singing parts, and equalling most of them in the general range of the drama."

Not far distant was the grave of Joseph Tyler, who made his debut in America at the John Street Theatre in February, 1796, an occasion made memorable by his first appearance in this country of Jefferson the Second, grandfather of the Joseph Jefferson of "Rip Van Winkle." Mr. Tyler was deemed a "fine looking man, of dignified and gentlemanly manners, possessing a voice of rare excellence, a most accomplished singer, and as an actor of elderly parts, surpassed all other actors of his time."

As he had furnished a desk for my convenience he had been too nervous to take any for himself. So I enlightened the future Cabinet officer in the least disagreeable way to tell his story, and next saw him as we stood side by side in the preliminaries of a Presidential inauguration. EDWARD W. TOWNSEND.

MONTCLAIR, N. J., MAY 21.

Reporter Franklin K. Lane.

An Incident in the Lives of Two California Journalists.

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: Among the various forms of life he had witnessed Franklin K. Lane mentioned in the remarkable letter he wrote when he faced death: "I once saw a man hanged."

I was a member of the official committee which received Mr. Wilson in the reception room of the Union railway station in Washington upon his arrival there for his first inauguration as President. Standing in the line of committeemen in the order some master of ceremonies had placed us I became aware that the man at my elbow was amiably regarding me, and after seemingly becoming satisfied that his conjecture regarding my identity was right he said:

"I wonder if you would recognize my back if I turned it toward you. You used it as a desk to write your notes of a hanging in the San Francisco county jail twenty years ago."

"Then you are Frank Lane," I said. We had not met since the time when, as San Francisco reporters, we were assigned to report for our respective papers the final chapter in a sensational murder story.

At that time I was nerve hardened. For some reason which has caused much self-examination city editors early elected to make me the hanging story specialist. When I casually used the back of the reporter standing between me and the gallows in that San Francisco jail as a convenient desk for my notes paper I was working on my seventh hanging story, but it was Lane's first.

The jail was at the foot of Telegraph Hill, celebrated by San Francisco poets from Hart to Ives, and after the execution the reporters gathered for lunch in a little Spanish restaurant, one of many foreign places of the kind on the slope of the hill. There Lane said that

Doubts of a Scholar.

Mr. Edison's Purpose Puzzles a Writer of Cyclopedias.

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: With the bonds before them the reporters did fairly well in answering Mr. Edison's questions, but with no book I note several errors.

Australia is five or six times larger than Greenland.
Spitsbergen—not with a B—is not off the coast of Norway, but far north of that coast in the Arctic.

If bituminous coal contains little gas, why do gas works all use it when they wish to burn coal gas?
Labrador is not a part of Canada, but is a continental coastal strip north-east of Quebec and belonging to Newfoundland.

Surely the Missouri-Mississippi is longer than the Amazon, though the latter carries more water.

Without a book I can answer practically all of Mr. Edison's questions, but what on earth is the good of such knowledge? I don't suppose Mr. Edison would pay me \$75 a week even if he wished cyclopaedia writers, of whom I am one, I don't see what Mr. Edison wants of such mental equipment.

RICHARD P. READ.
NEW YORK, MAY 21.

Shagbark Hickory Rest.

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: No doubt a good axe handle—helve—can be made from ash or oak of second growth, but the prevailing timber for that use is second growth shagbark hickory